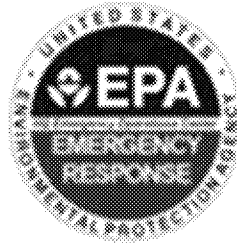


From: Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/1/2017 11:39:49 PM
To: Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Depression Harvey - Update #14

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Depression Harvey - Update #14

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of September 1, 2017 at 1940 EDT

Overview: The remnants of Harvey will track northeast across the Tennessee and Ohio Valley over the next couple of days. Flash flood watches and warnings are in effect from parts of northern Mississippi and across western Tennessee, Kentucky, southern Indiana and southwest Ohio. Flooding will continue across much of the middle and upper Texas coast into southwest Louisiana for several weeks.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: FEMA has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and deployed National and several regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs). FEMA's Region VI RRCC is also at Level 1. The Texas, Louisiana, and New Orleans EOCs are at full activation. National Guards deployed in Texas and Louisiana.

In Corpus Christi, six oil discharge assessment teams consisting of US Coast Guard and Texas General Land Office are conducting reconnaissance in the area of which two teams are conducting air reconnaissance via helicopters. Eight additional hazard evaluation teams consisting of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and TCEQ and two oil discharge assessment teams consisting of USCG and TCEQ are working in the Houston area. USCG is also conducting orphan container recovery in the area. Additional National Guardsmen from AR, OK, and VA are preparing to deploy between September 4-7.

EPA Actions:

EPA Region 6:

The Region 6 Emergency Operations Center is currently activated and is working under a limited FEMA Disaster Declaration Mission Assignment (MA). In addition, EPA has received an MA to assist the State of Texas with drinking water, wastewater, and Hazmat recovery operations.

Texas

The Governor declared a State of Disaster for 50 counties in Texas.

Region 6 deployed two On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) on August 25 in support of the State through this ESF. One OSC deployed to the FEMA Regional Response Center in Denton and the second OSC to the State of Texas Operations Center in Austin.

EPA is deploying four teams of On Scene Coordinators and contractors to Beaumont-Port Arthur to coordinate with TCEQ, TGLO, and US Coast Guard in responding to releases and spills at facilities. These teams will stage in Houston until weather allows them to enter the Beaumont-Port Arthur area. An EPA Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) vehicle is deployed to Corpus Christi. Colorado PHILIS mobile units will be deploying to Corpus Christi.

On September 1, EPA Region 6 followed up on request from Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for salinity probes to determine if surface water can be used for livestock uses.

On September 1, EPA deployed two container recovery teams to Corpus Christi that will be collecting orphaned containers where hazard evaluations have been completed.

Louisiana

The Governor declared a State of Emergency for 64 parishes. To date, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has not set up its IMT and does not plan to unless something significantly changes. The main focus for Louisiana is supporting individuals evacuating from impacted areas in Texas. EPA continues to monitor the situation in Louisiana and stay in close communication with LDEQ.

Industrial Sources

On August 31, two explosions were reported at the Arkema Chemical Facility. Arkema is a Risk Management Plan (RMP) facility that manufactures liquid organic peroxides and has sulfur dioxide (anhydrous) and 2-methylpropene present on site. EPA has deployed an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the scene. Four air monitoring teams from EPA, Harris County Pollution Control and Liberty County are conducting monitoring around the exclusion zone. On September 1 at approximately 1730 EDT, another explosion occurred resulting in a large fire with significant amounts of black smoke. ASPECT has been deployed to assess the conditions at the Arkema chemical facility in Crosby. The aircraft flew August 30, August 31, and September 1 and made multiple overflights of the Arkema facility. The EPA HQ EOC is issuing separate reporting for this incident.

EPA is working with TCEQ to contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and what support can be provided with the monitoring of the start-up of industrial sources along the coast of Texas.

Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments

The Region 6 Drinking and Wastewater Team mobilized on August 30 to Corpus Christi to assist with drinking water and waste water field assessments. On September 2, Region 6 will send additional Drinking Water/Wastewater Assessment Teams to Corpus Christi and Houston.

TCEQ reported that 166 water systems have Boil Water Notices (BWN) in place. Sixty-one (61) drinking water systems and 30 waste water systems are inoperable. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reported that three water systems are on a Boil Water Advisory, and one water system is currently out of service in Calcasieu Parish.

On September 1, TCEQ received a status update from the City of Beaumont for

their Water Treatment Facilities: The groundwater plant remains offline due to flooding. The surface water treatment plant (SWP) is producing 6-8 million gallons per day (MGD) as of 1000 CDT on September 1. No water is being sent to distribution as this time, but plant operators are currently attempting to pressurize lines from the plant to pump stations and storage facilities. Attempts to pressurize distribution will be made September 1. The raw water pumps are not operational, and estimated to remain out of service for 2-3 weeks. Crews are currently on-site laying additional pipe and installing additional pumps.

EPA Laboratory / Analytical Services

The Houston laboratory is reporting that they will be closed until September 5. The laboratory and office buildings are not damaged. EPA has back up capabilities for laboratory services should the Houston facility remain closed.

Data Management

Two National Data Team members have been deployed. Region 6 will provide technical support to state regulatory agencies both at the GLO and TCEQ to gather data and information in Response Manager, a systemized response data management system.

Communications

ESF-15 FEMA Public Affairs is establishing a Joint Information Center in Austin at the newly established Joint Field Office (JFO). The EPA Public Information Unit in Dallas is fully operational and supported by a Public Information Assistance Team (PIAT). An EPA PIO is also in Corpus Christi to support operations there.

Refineries/Fuel Waivers

EPA continues to receive and approve, as appropriate, fuel waiver requests.

EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM):

The HQ EOC activated on August 28 and is at Level 1 operations. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with Region 6 and other Federal Agencies. The HQ EOC has deployed personnel to the FEMA NRCC to staff the ESF #10 Watch. The HQ EOC has transitioned to a Daily Management Report that will capture response activities in greater detail.

EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)

EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) is sending 25 special agents as a Quick Reaction Team (QRT) to south TX to support the response to Harvey. The response is managed as part of ESF-13. Currently QRTs are being deployed to provide law enforcement support search and rescue operations, medical assistance teams and mortuary teams during the initial response phase of the response to Harvey.

Media Interest: High

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/harvey-danger-major-chemical-plant-near-houston-likely-explode-facility-n797581>

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/08/31/houston-rescuers-start-block-by-block-search-homes-flooded-by-tropical-storm-harvey.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/08/31/harveys-wrath-moves-across-the-louisiana-texas-border-as-water-recedes-in-houston/?hpid=hp_hp-banner-main_harvey-1245am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.f5928cebcb63

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/31/us/harvey-houston-texas-flood.html>

Note: The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

Peter Oh & Tim Grier, Senior Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850
<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>